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# Senators Disagree Over Need For a Committee to Supervise Super-Secret CIA's Operations

Rules Group Indorses Bill—Members of  
Subcommittees That Deal With  
Agency Say It Could Be Harmful,  
Term Controls Adequate.

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WASHINGTON, March 3.

IN AN EFFORT to pry the lid off the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency, the Senate Rules Committee has indorsed a bill by Senator Mike Mansfield (Dem.), Montana, to create a special joint Senate-House committee to supervise the operations of CIA in much the same way as the Joint Atomic Energy Committee does the Atomic Energy Commission.

The director of CIA, Allen W. Dulles, brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, has made no public statement on the proposal, but that he objects to it is obvious, since the President has informed the Congress of his own objections.

The Rules Committee majority report recognized the need for secrecy in gathering intelligence, but said "there was a profound difference between an essential degree of secrecy to achieve a specific purpose and secrecy for the mere sake of secrecy."

"The CIA has unquestionably placed itself above other Government agencies," the report affirmed. "There has been no regular methodical review of this agency, other than a briefing which is supplied to a few members of selected subcommittees."

The CIA is supervised in the Congress at present by small subcommittees of the Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees. Allen Dulles recently testified in executive session before the Senate Armed Services Committee, but no report, as usual, has been made on his testimony.

**Terms Supervision Adequate.**  
Senator Carl Hayden (Dem.), Arizona, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and a member of the Rules Committee, in a minority report, declared that Congress maintains "supervision over the operations of that agency to an entirely adequate degree."

He said that the idea that Congress did not control the CIA sufficiently was "a mistaken and erroneous assumption."

Hayden should know, since he is one of the few Senators who is given complete information on the operations and appropriations of CIA.

The Armed Services Committees, generally, feel that congressional supervision of the CIA is adequate. In addition, they see the proper responsibilities of the Armed Services Committees diluted by the formation of joint committees to take over part of their functions. They object to a new joint committee for the CIA on this ground.

The CIA has been investigated four times in the last six years by task forces of the Hoover Commission. After the last investigation, the commission, as distinguished from its task force headed by Gen. Mark W. Clark, recommended two committees to supervise CIA.

The first, to be appointed by the President, was also recommended by the task force and was to be composed of "experienced private citizens who would periodically examine the work of the Government foreign intelligence agencies and report to him." The President has appointed this committee.

The second committee recommended was the joint Senate-House committee now cleared by the Rules Committee of the Senate to go before the Senate.

## Lack of Understanding

The report of the Senate Rules Committee shows a lack of understanding of the special need of CIA for utter secrecy. It is true that some of the outward aspects of the rules for secrecy look absurd to the outsider.

The cloak-and-dagger agency broke down far enough to permit its number to be listed in the Washington telephone directory. It appears there is small type with the number EX-ecutive 3-6115. Anyone calling the agency, however, is answered by an operator who repeats the number instead of answering "Central Intelligence Agency." From there on, all is secret.

Having obtained the extension of the person called, and called for it, again the extension number is repeated. The caller asks for an individual. The individual is always out of the office and will call when he returns. The return call usually comes within a few minutes, the time necessary to consult with the individual and to find out if he wishes to take the call. The reason for this last precaution is that no one except a few top individuals is allowed to admit even that he works for the CIA.

In Washington, the prohibition on admitting that one works in CIA automatically discloses where the individual does work, since CIA is the only agency with such restrictions. An old friend shows up in town evades telling what he is doing, and you know he is with CIA. This is not so silly as it may appear. The same individual may be sent out on a covert operation in which he operates as a business man, or under some other type of cover. If he were identified as a member of the CIA, his cover and usefulness would be destroyed.

## Spies in Panama

There were certain Japanese business men in Panama between the two great wars who our intelligence agency knew were spies. They were allowed to continue to operate since their communications helped to discover all the ramifications of the Japanese spy net.

More successful was the German watchmaker at Scapa Flow, the great British naval base. He made no move or communication with his German superiors for 20 years. Then, shortly

after the war broke out, he gave the German navy information which enabled a German submarine to penetrate the theoretically impregnable defense and torpedo half a dozen British warships and escape.

Some of CIA's efforts to establish a business cover have not turned out well. Two, Western Enterprises on Formosa and the Southeast Trading Corporation in Thailand, were the jokes of the Far East. Everyone knew they were cover operations for United States intelligence.

The numbers of personnel involved were too large to make the cover effective. Imagine a Chinese customs official receiving an invoice for 300 pianos for Western Enterprises and watching his head in wonderment while he said: "How can they use 300 pianos when there are not that many American families on Formosa?"

CIA has been given credit, probably much to the distress of its director, in national magazines for having arranged the overthrow of King Farouk of Egypt, of Mossadegh in Iran and of the Communist government of Jacob Arbenz in Guatemala. But if CIA engages in such interference in the internal affairs of friendly countries—and CIA does not admit that it does—it is apparent that an authoritative leak, no matter how trifling, from a Senator or Representative in a position to know, could utterly destroy the effectiveness of its operations and get the United States into a black hole of international

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